PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING Tuesday, March 17,1970

> Hodges Gardens Motor Inn Route 171 Many, Louisiana

Reporter: Arthur W. Bilotti



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PROCEEDINGS

....The Board Meeting of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, March 17,1970, at the Hodges Gardens Motor Inn and Restaurant Meeting Room, Route 171, Many, Louisiana, Mr. J. G. Jones, Chairman, Presiding. . . .

THERE WERE PRESENT:

Mr. J. G. Jones, Chairman

Mr. H. C. Wright, Vice-Chairman

Mr. C. M. Hoffpauer

Mr. C. A. Guidry

Mr. Hobson Norris

Mr. J. L. Winfree

Mr. J. W. Thompson

Absent

Mr. J. E. Kyle, Jr.

Absent

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AGENDA

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

- 1. Ratification of Option for Radcliff

 Materials, Inc. Three-Parish Lease

 Agreement.
- 2. Application for renewal of permit to dredge sand, gravel and/or fill materials from the Mississippi River approximately one mile above U.S.Highway #90

 Bridge, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.
- Request for a dredging permit in Little
 River from the mouth of Fish Creek to
 Gotch Branch, Sections 28,33, and 34;
 also Sections 4,10,11, and 13.

MR. JOE HERRING:

- 4. Consideration of extension of contract on timber cutting on Russell Sage (20) Wildlife Management Area.
- 5. Resurfacing of driveways and parking areas at the Minden District Office.
 - 6. Acceptance of completion of the fencing

contract on the Bodcau Wildlife

(24)

Management Area.

- 7. Sale of approximately 395 acres of marked timber on the Commission operated Bodcau Wildlife Management Area
- 8. Removal of livestock on some 12,000

 acres of land on the Southwest side of
 Bodcau Wildlife Management Area.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will now come to order.

The first item of business on the agenda is by Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

The first item of business is a ratification of an Option by the Radcliff Materials

Corporation for their Three-Parish Lease

Agreement.

Attached to this memorandum is a letter

from the Radcliff Materials Corporation requesting that the option for a five-year extension of
their share lease in the Atchafalaya Bay commonly
known as the Three-Parish Lease Agreement be
exercised and that the Commission grant this
option.

This matter was presented to the Commission informally a month ago and it has been held in abeyance for examination by our legal staff. This has been done and we are informed that the document is in good order and that the company is within its legal rights to request and receive this option.

I, therefore, recommend that the option be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Norris.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

MR. WINFREE: Let me ask you this, Dr. St. Amant. What royalties does the State receive from this shell material that is dredged?

DR. ST. AMANT: The State receives 15

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

cents a yard.

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant
permission to Radcliff Materials,
Inc. to exercise their option
for renewal of their lease known
as the Three-Parish Lease covering the right and privilege of
taking and removing oyster shells,
clam and other shell deposits

from the shell reefs within the Parish of St.Mary and parts of the Parishes of Iberia and Terrebonne, State of Louisiana, from water bottoms of Atchafalaya Bay.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item of business is an application for a renewal of a permit to dredge sand, gravel, and/or fill materials from the Mississippi River approximately one mile above U.S.Highway #90 Bridge, Jefferson Parish. This is the old Huey Long Bridge.

Attached is a letter of application for renewal of a permit by the Louisiana Industries to dredge for sand, gravel, and/or fill materials from the Mississippi River. A copy of the

original permit and location plat are also attached.

We have examined this request and it meets all the requirements as set forth by the Commission.

I, therefore, recommend that the permit be renewed.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. GUIDRY: I so move, Mr.Chairman.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Eisheries Commission does hereby grant

Industries to dredge sand, gravel and/or fill materials from the Mississippi River approximately one mile above U. S. Highway #90 Bridge, Jefferson Parish.

State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

DR. ST. AMANT: The last item of business is one which is a little more complicated.

It is a request for a dredging permit

in Little River in the mouth of Fish Creek to

Gotch Branch and it includes parts of Sections 28,

33,34, and also Sections 4,10,11, and 13.

This request is by Mr. Don Carter of Georgetown, Louisiana. Now the request and his application meets all the requirements set forth by the Commission for such permits. However, the request is in Little River and it is the first time that any permit has been requested in this area.

This stream is under consideration to be placed on a list for streams that will be preserved in the State of Louisiana for scenic and wildlife and fisheries purposes.

I have submitted this application to the Water Pollution Control Division and to the Fish and Game Division for comment.

Mr. LaFleur with the Water Pollution

Control Division indicates that if a company could

operate without any pollution whatsoever from

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downstream tail-water, and if any permit granted included proper clauses to protect this stream from any pollution, then he would have no objection.

The Fish and Game Division comments are by Mr. Gladney Davidson, who is the river basin biologist. He makes several points which I think should be taken into consideration.

He points out that studies in North
Carolina indicate that as much as ninety per cent
of the production of a stream may be lost if
channelization occurs. Now channelization is
usually something carried out by drainage programs
where the streams are straightened, the walls are
taken out of them and, generally, the flow is
increased.

Theoretically, a dredging operation that is extended a considerable length along a stream could well act as a channelization project. However, if restricted to a small site or one site in the river, it would not act as a

channelization section.

Mr. Davidson also points out that increased turbidity reduces fishing quality or fishing success, and that any turbidity from the operation perhaps would reduce reproductivity in fish eggs and so forth in certain spawning areas.

He also questions whether or not there is any sand or gravel in the stream. Now, this I do not know how he can do without surveys, nor do I know -- Mr. Carter says that he has found gravel. This is a moot question.

There is one other point that is brought up. This area according to the Louisiana Soil Testing Laboratory has a material in the area called kaolinic clay which, when it is disturbed, causes a considerable amount of turbidity and it is very hard to settle out. This type of material can cause some trouble if it is dredged in or near the river.

It is also pointed out that Little River

at one time was considerably polluted from an oil field, brine, and other substances, and this has now been cleaned up to a certain extent and Mr. Davidson feels we may be going downhill if we grant a permit that might muddy the river up. Finally, he points out that the stream is one on a list that we would like to preserve.

These are the opinions of the two divisions that might be involved in this. As I said in the beginning, the request is in order and it does meet all the requirements.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St.Amant.

Before we proceed further on this particular subject, let me recognize Representative

Brister who is in the audience. We are glad to
have you with us today, sir.

Is there anyone in the audience that desires to be heard on this subject?

MR. BRISTER: I would appreciate the opportunity to speak on this subject, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine, Mr. Brister, go ahead.

MR. BRISTER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

My name is T. C. Brister and I am from Pineville Louisiana. I am the State Representative for Rapides and Grant Parishes and I am a lifelong resident of that area.

Being a fisherman, myself, and a sportsman, I am pretty well familiar with Little River and the area that is under discussion here today. That area is one I have become familiar with over the many years that I have lived there.

I didn't know about this meeting until yesterday morning when I was informed of it, and we have had very little publicity until last evening's local paper had an article in there concerning this meeting and what was being proposed.

Now as it has already been mentioned here, for many years Little River was a wonderful

fishing stream. Many camphouses were built on it, and boat landings have been provided and it was a wonderful fishing area. Then the oil industry came into being, and we had pollution and it was real bad for a period of time.

Since Governor McKeithen has been in office, well, I want to say that Little River has been cleaned up real good. I inspected Little River with a biologist from Mr. LaFleur's office a couple of months ago, and we went up Little River and examined it. Why, I couldn't taste any salt in the water, and we didn't find any oil, and it is being restored to what it used to be when it was real good.

As we know, when you go to dredging in that river you are going to muddy it up and it is really going to ruin the fishing in Little River, which is one of the main streams for sportsmen and for people who have built camphouses and have boat landings there.

I just can't conceive of you ruining a beautiful stream by permitting this gravel to be dredged out of it. I know where the gravel is, I fished off those gravel shoals myself. I am very familiar with it and there is lots of gravel there but you are going to kill fishing on Little River, and the commercial fishermen who fish there and make a living -- they have for years -- will suffer.

It is my request here today that I ask this group not to take any action on it but to hold a protest meeting in Alexandria or some convenient location in that area where the people who are real concerned, and there are many of them, will have an opportunity to present their case, and that was my purpose in being here today.

I am asking you not to take any action on this permit, but give our people in our area down there an opportunity to be heard. That was the purpose of my being here today.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your comments, Mr. Brister.

Is there anyone else here today who would like to be heard on this subject?

MR. WALKER: I have some comments on the subject, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Come forward, please.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission:

My name is Jimmy Walker and I represent the Catahoula Lake Conservation Club.

As you probably know, Little River is the main artery that feeds Catahoula Lake.

In our membership for the Catahoula

Lake Conservation Club we have sportsmen,

commercial fishermen, and cattlemen. We have a

fear that if you permit this dredging of gravel

in Little River, that the residue will come into

Catahoula Lake where there is being maintained at

the present time a game refuge for wild duck.

As you probably know, during the summertime Catahoula Lake goes dry and it grows grass.
There are thirty-three different varieties of
food growing on Catahoula Lake for the ducks and
cattle. If you permit this dredging permit to
go into effect, you will more or less, certainly
more, be permitting the polluting of Little River
as well as damaging Catahoula Lake.

I urge you gentlemen to help us preserve our wildlife, help us preserve our ducks on Catahoula Lake. Last year we had over 330,000 ducks that rested and fed on Catahoula Lake, and we have a tremendous amount of duck hunting, we have a tremendous amount of commercial fishing, we have cattlemen who, after the lake dries up and the grass or food or this hay grows, put their cattle on the lake bed to graze.

Gravel may be of economic value, but I cannot see where the gravel dredging, the economic value of it, would exceed or even be

equal to the facilities that you may take a chance of ruining, and I urge upon you to either give us a chance in Central Louisiana to be heard, or to reject this permit.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Walker for your comments.

Any other comments on this subject?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: To you, particularly, Mr. Brister.

in New Orleans, we adopted a resolution and we are also going to have legislation prepared to preserve a great many of our streams in the State of Louisiana for beautification and conservation purposes, and retain them in their natural state, and Little River is one of the rivers that we will propose in our legislation. Now I am soliciting

your support when that legislation comes up in May.

MR. BRISTER: Well, you are going to get it.

MR. WINFREE: So, with that in mind, I would like to make a motion that this application of Mr. Carter's be rejected, and that no permit be granted in Little River for the dredging of gravel.

MR. NORRIS: I second that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: There has been a motion by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Norris to reject the permit for dredging in Little River.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection to the motion?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. WINFREE: Now, Mr. Brister, I would like to ask you a question. Would this now prevent us from having this protest meeting in Alexandria as you proposed?

MR. BRISTER: Well, the way you all passed these other resolutions I was trying to put a little stumbling block in there.

MR. WRIGHT: There was already a block in there.

MR. BRISTER: Well, I want to thank you gentlemen very, very much for your action here today. Thank you.

MR. WINFREE: And I would like to solicit your support, Mr. Walker, and all the sportsmen in the Catahoula Lake Conservation Club for this type of legislation when we propose it in the May session.

MR. WALKER: You will get it, sir, and you will get it from all the sportsmen in the parishes of Rapides. Grant, LaSalle, and Catahoula. We have membership all over North Louisiana.

MR. WINFREE: Well, we would like for Mr. Brister's name to be on that bill, too.

MR. BRISTER: Yes, sir, put it on there.

MR. BRISTER: I want to inform you, gentlemen, that I received many phone calls last night and this morning before I left home regarding this situation. The people in that area were alarmed about it.

MR. WRIGHT: Yes, sir, but I had some long before you did about this and I agree with you.

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now that we are in a very cooperative mood, the next item of business on the agenda will be presented by Mr.Joe Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you. Now is a good time to come up here.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission.

The first request we have this morning is for an extension by the Walter Kellogg Lumber Company on a contract for cutting some 300 acres of timber on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

Their contract expires July 24th, and they have requested an extension to November 15th.

I'd like to request of the Commission that this extension be granted as this is in our favor for wildlife management purposes.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Herring, does this money from this tiber cutting go back into our wildlife management area money, or does it go into the general fund?

MR. HERRING: It would go into our Marsh

Island Fund because it was purchased with Marsh

Island funds:

MR: HOFFPAUER: Joe, just as a point of information, who does cut these trees? Is this a TSI cut?

MR. HERRING: The Commission does, the Commission personnel does it strictly on a wildlife management basis. We are trying to produce a better grade of timber. That is what we have on most of these areas, especially your bottomwood hardwood areas.

Our whole purpose is to get rid of some of the timber that, you might say isn't any good in there for wildlife management purposes and grow a better grade of timber.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. NORRIS: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion, Mr.

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered. Number five, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item on the agenda is that we have made a request to the State Highway Department to make an estimate for blacktopping our driveway and parking area at our District #1 Minden Office. The State

Highway Department has made this estimate which is some \$995.50.

This came in just prior to our Commission meeting here, so I haven't had a chance to check the finances on what we had available for funds to be used for this. What I would like to do is to have the Commission at this time approve this, provided the funds are available in our budget.

The total cost of the project would be \$6,305.84. However, since the State Highway Department is doing this, the only thing we would have to pay for is the material to be used. Labor, equipment, and other things would be furnished by the State Highway Department.

I, therefore, would like to recommend to the Commission that they approve this expenditure.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I so move.
MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

Number six, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: The next item of business on the agenda this morning is for the completion of six miles of fence on our Bodcau Wildlife Management Area.

This contract was let to the Hurricane
Fence Company for the southwest side of our
Bodcau Area.

This fence is connected with two other fences that we have on the area, and we now have some 12,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat under fence.

Since the work has been completed, our field personnel have inspected the fence thoroughly, and they have found it acceptable.

and that the contractor has lived up to his agreement. I, therefore, would like to recommend to the Commission at this time that we accept the fence and that we do put the contract in line for final payment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. NORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered. Number seven, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: The next item of business on the agenda this morning is that we had requested the State Division of Administration to go out on bids for the sale of some 395 acres of timber marked on our Bodcau Wildlife Management Area.

This timber was marked by Commission personnel for wildlife management purposes. This is to get some money to operate this area.

Three bids were received. One from the Woodard Walker Lumber Company in the amount of \$20,950.00; one from the W. L. Johnson Lumber Company in the amount of \$20,011.11; and the third bid was from the Anthony Forest Products Company of Springhill, Louisiana, which was in the amount of \$19,125.00.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that we notify the State Division of Administration to award this contract to the highest bidder, who is Woodard Walker Lumber Company, in the amount of \$20,950.00.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Norris.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

Number eight, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman:

The next item on the agenda --

MR. WINFREE: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, but let me go back to this other item for just a moment for a point of information.

Mr. Hoffpauer, do we have the qualified personnel to cruise this timber and mark this timber that is cut?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Well, there is one there (indicating). There are many people in the Commission who have BS Forestry Degrees, from LSU in particular.

Yes, we have qualified personnel to do this type of work.

MR. HERRING: Many of our people have forestry backgrounds.

The next item on the agenda this morning also concerns the Bodcau Wildlife Management Area.

ments of wildlife habitat on other wildlife
management areas by the removal of cattle, we
would like now to recommend to the Commission that
all cattle -- you might say cows, hogs, goats, and
other livestock -- be removed from the Bodcau
Wildlife Management Area on that portion that has
been fenced.

We have discussed this with the Corps of Engineers, and they concur at this time with us that the cattle should be removed on that portion for wildlife purposes. It will greatly increase the amount of wildlife that we have on the area, and for recreational purposes for the people of our state.

I would like to recommend to the Commission at this time that we do go on record as having the cattle removed according to the same procedure that was used on other wildlife

management areas. Also, that the Commission.

Attorney will notify the people who have stock

on there by registered mail and give these people

six months from this time to have all livestock

removed from the area.

MR. WINFREE: How many cattle are running on this area now, Mr. Herring?

MR. HERRING: At the present time, Mr. Winfree, we do not have too many cows in the area. Most of the people have taken the cows off for the winter months. That is one reason we would like to get into this now. If they know they are going to have to take them off, they won't put any on. Usually, there are about seven hundred cows in this general area. This is not counting the hogs and goats now. We could not give you an estimate of how many hogs and goats are on this area now, but the majority of the cattle have been removed, and we would like to go ahead and get this done so that the people would not put the cows back on there.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Herring, you are asking for six months to notify these people?

MR. HERRING: Right, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: I think six months is sufficient time, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that this apparently has been open range, and if it does destroy our wildlife, I think the people could be notified of this fact and give them the six months.

It might work hardships on some of the people, but they will just have to make other arrangements because this area is one of our better management areas and it is not owned by us. Is that correct, Mr. Herring?

MR. HERRING: Yes, Mr. Winfree. The Corps of Engineers own this land and they lease it to us for wildlife management purposes. And, also, the money that we derive from this area by lease agreement has to be spent back on the area.

That's where this timber sale that was just approved -- this money will have to be spent on Bodcau.

We have done practically all of our work from timber sales of this area. All of our fencing has been done with money from the sale of timber. We have built a residence there. We are hoping now to receive permission from the Division of Administration -- we have even employed some biologists for this area with the money taken in.

MR. WINFREE: Where is it located, sir?

MR. HERRING: It is located between

Shreveport and Minden, so it is in a good

population area.

We have a lot of sportsmen from that area, especially the cattle group. They hunt this area pretty heavily for waterfowl and deer. We have stocked it with turkeys and there is good squirrel hunting there. It is just good all-around hunting up there. It is one area that is not like some of the wildlife management areas

that we lease. This one we have just about exclusive rights on it, it is almost ours, you might say. We have been able to operate it as we see fit for wildlife and recreational purposes.

However, we do get the concurrence of the Corps of Engineers on all of our activities on it. We have had a good working relationship on the area with the Corps. It is just a good area.

MR. WINFREE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.
Thank you, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I gather that is all the

business before the Commission today.

I might add that I have received a report from some people that went fishing the last day or two that apparently that lake needs to be restocked.

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask, Mr. Cook, do you concur in that? Did you find the same thing this morning?

MR. COOK: I didn't even bother to go up there this morning.

(Laughter)

MR. WRIGHT: Give me a report on that, Larry, will you please. All I caught was two about that long (indicating).

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business before the Commission this morning?

MR. O'NEIL: I would like to discuss the transfer of the alligators over to the Fur Division, that is, the pen-raising of animals.

THE CHAIRMAN: We were going to hold

that off until next month, Mr. O'Neil.

As I understand it, you and Mr.Ensminger and a number of others are working on the business of possibly coming up with an alligator season, or some kind of a package on alligators.

We were going to take it up next month.

Is it urgent?

MR. O'NEIL: It is urgent in the part that the pen-rearing of alligators now is with the Fish and Game Division and they want to get rid of it. I think the time is right now to get started on that part of it.

MR. WRIGHT: All you would be doing is transfering the permits?

MR. O'NEIL: The transferring of permits the tagging, the banding, and pen-raising part of it. That's not the over-all alligator plan or method for the handling of commercial alligators.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to take up the matter? It doesn't make any difference to me. I had just assumed that you all had been

considering the business of possible alligator seasons.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I don't think it needs Commission action.

MR. O'NEIL: I just want to discuss this so that we all understand it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think you will have any problems.

Any other business to come before the Commission?

(No response)

MR NORRIS: I move that we adjourn the meeting.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Guidry. The meeting is adjourned.

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. . . . Thereupon, the Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries

Commission was adjourned at 11:15 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, March 17,1970. . . .

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the stenographic (Stenotype) notes of the proceedings herein, taken down by me and transcribed under my supervision, at the time and place hereinbefore noted, in the above-entitled and -numbered cause (s).

new orleans, Louisiana, this 23 24 day of Mark . 1969/570

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